

times, we say we are going to take care of that, we are going to address those needs. The agricultural industry of this state, which is many times greater than either of the other two, falls upon hard times for seven or eight years and we say, you've got to tighten your belt, you've got to do away with all of those extravagances, like a 1978 pickup truck, and you've got to put your wife back in that flour sack petticoat and that feed sack dress, and you've got to learn how it is to live tough, and that 15 percent interest is good for you, purifies your soul, makes you recognize that things aren't free in this world. So then we come around, and I've been noticing, Senator Vard, the handle at Fonner this year. Kind of interesting, up. The attendance is up, the handle is up. Maybe, maybe there is something else afoot. Maybe the thoroughbred industry has not fallen upon the terrible hard times we thought it was. Maybe we don't need the additional 7 million from this tax. Maybe we can do without it. But certainly what we can do without, Senator Johnson, is the windfall, as Senator Hannibal has pointed out, the windfall to a few wholesalers, in particular to a single wholesaler. Not particularly picking on anyone, just want to say that in this particular instance you ought to remember that you are giving that quarter of a million dollars away and you are going to suffer for it sometime in the next few months. If you do, in fact, pass the tax you are giving it away. But more than that, more than that you must remember that the next time you come back before this body with a cigarette tax increase and you make the same adjustment you have made now, you have locked in for the wholesaler, deservedly or not, based entirely upon Senator Johnson's agreement with the wholesalers, a \$50,000 bonus. Now if you want to abdicate your responsibility to Senator Vard Johnson in that respect, that is fine with me. But you ought to be aware of what you are doing. You ought to recognize that Senator Vard Johnson sat down, and not in an unmannerly method, not in any kind of a clandestine method, very openly cut himself a deal with the wholesalers whereby they said, we will back off our opposition, we will subvert to the wishes of the Revenue Committee if, in fact, you give us a quarter of a million bucks and we'll walk away whistling, we'll whistle all the way to the bank, we'll tell our retailers we are sorry we couldn't stop the thing, we'll tell our customers we thought it was an unfair tax, but by sweetening it with just a quarter of a million dollars or so, we are able to bear up under the burden. So, Mr. President, members of the body, it is twelve o'clock. I hate to end on this note, but I want to say I want to ask you to indefinitely postpone the bill.